

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06264 240908Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 IO-14 AID-05 OPIC-06
TRSE-00 EB-08 /110 W
-----093736 240915Z /16

O R 240730Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6781
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 6264

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE MEETS THE PRESS

REF: LISBON 6173 (DTG 181611Z AUG 78)

1. FIRST NATIONAL EXPOSURE:

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PAGE 02 LISBON 06264 240908Z

PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE NOBRE DA COSTA WAS INTERVIEWED
ON NATIONAL TELEVISION LATE AUG 22: HIS FIRST NATIONAL
EXPOSURE SINCE HIS ANNOUNCED DESIGNATION AUG 9. IT WAS
CLEAR THROUGHOUT THE THIRTY-MINUTE INTERVIEW THAT ALTHOUGH
ONE OF HIS FIRST PRIORITIES IS TO PREPARE FOR EARLY
NATIONAL ELECTIONS IF THE ASSEMBLY EVENTUALLY SO DESIRES,
HE DOES NOT INTEND TO CONFINE HIS CABINET TO THE ROLE OF

A CARETAKER OR TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, ALBEIT INSPIRED BY THE PS/CDS PROGRAM APPROVED FEB 12 OF THIS YEAR, WILL INCLUDE SOME INITIATIVES OF ITS OWN. NOBRE DA COSTA STRESSED THAT:

-- NATIONAL CONCERNS REQUIRE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT TAKE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM INITIATIVES TO CORRECT THE CONTINUING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE THE IMF AGREED STABILIZATION PROGRAM INITIATED BY THE LAST SOARES GOVERNMENT, AND MUST BE PREPARED TO BEGIN NEW DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IMF THIS FALL FOR FOLLOW-UP ASSISTANCE. NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THIS COURSE HAS YET BEEN FOUND.

-- ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (BOTH ISSUES WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE COLLAPSE OF THE PS/CDS ACCORD), THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING LEGISLATION WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER NEW LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES. SOCIALIST INITIATIVES IN AGRARIAN REFORM WILL BE PURSUED, BUT INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IS PROBABLY AN ISSUE OF GREATER NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND APPLIES TO MAY AREAS NOT AFFECTED BY RECENT AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION.

-- ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO STRONG PARTY AFFILIATION, HE WAS WILLING TO SERVE IN THE FIRST SOARES GOVERNMENT
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PAGE 03 LISBON 06264 240908Z

BECAUSE HE HAS SOME SOCIALIST INCLINATIONS.
(A COMMENT WHICH PLEASANTLY SURPRISED THE PS AND CAUGHT THE CDS AND PSD OFF GUARD).

-- HE IS CONVINCED HE CAN ASSEMBLE A FULL CABINET, PROBABLY TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK, THAT THE MINISTERIAL CHOICES ARE HIS AND NOT THE PRESIDENT'S, AND THAT HE HAS MADE NO SPECIAL DEALS WITH ANY POLITICAL GROUP ON EITHER CABINET SELECTION OR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (READ WITH THE PCP ON AGRARIAN REFORM).

2. COMMENT WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON06264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780346-0567
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780829/aaaaaxqs.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE MEETS THE PRESS
TAGS: PINT, PO, (NOBRE DA COSTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2b0fa45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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